



California Antique Radio Gazette



Official Journal, Southern California Antique Radio Society.

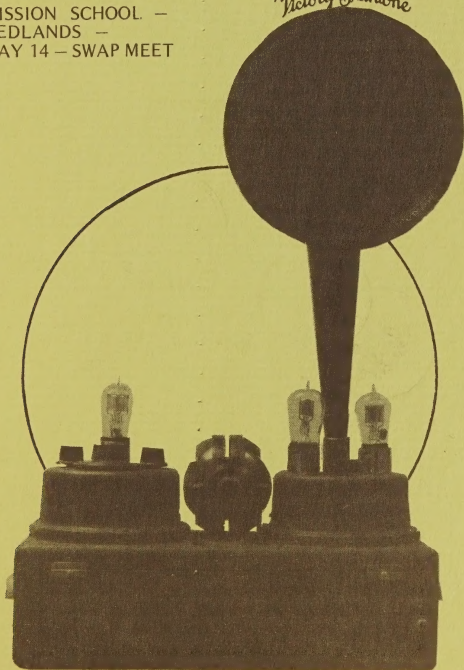
VOLUME 8

MAY 1983

NUMBER 2

MISSION SCHOOL —
REDLANDS —
MAY 14 — SWAP MEET

Victory-Grantone



VICTORY—GRANTONE PORTABLE RECEIVER

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ANTIQUE RADIO SOCIETY

SCARS

SCARS Officers and Publications Managers

President	Charles Farnsworth 965 Pepper Drive El Cajon, CA 92021	Secretary	Edward Sheldon 656 Gravilla Place La Jolla, CA 92037
Vice President	Floyd A. Paul 1545 Raymond Ave. Glendale, CA 91201	Treasurer	Walter Curry 10035 Country View Road La Mesa, CA 92041

CO-Editors of the Gazette

David Stout
439 21st St.
Santa Monica, CA 90402

Floyd A. Paul
1545 Raymond Ave.
Glendale, CA 91201

Publications Support

Bruce McCalley
2039 Evergreen St.
Burbank, CA 91505

Address official correspondence to Charles Farnsworth. Send requests for application to join the club to Edward Sheldon. Send dues to Walter Curry. Send information and articles for the publications to either co-editor, David Stout or Floyd A. Paul.

The *Gazette* is the official Journal of the Southern California Antique Radio Society (SCARS) and has a planned publication of four times a year, and is furnished free to to all members. Neither this publication nor the society are responsible for swap and trade ads.

SCARS is a non-profit organization. Its purpose is to preserve the history of wireless communication by encouraging the acquisition, preservation and exhibition of antique wireless and radio apparatus and publications pertaining to its history and development.

SCARS promotes social contacts through meetings held four times a year in various locations in Southern California. Featured at these meetings are contests, swap sessions and talks by members and guests on subjects of interest to collectors.

The club publishes quarterly the *California Antique Radio Gazette* or Newsletter which feature articles of historical interest, news of club activities, hints on restoration and advertisement of radio related items available for sale or swap. These ads are printed free for members.

Membership is open to anyone having a genuine interest in preserving the equipment and history of early wireless and radio equipment. Dues are \$10.00 per year.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To SCARS members:

1983 is becoming a pivotal year for the club. We have lost a number of members who have moved, lost interest or dropped their membership for various reasons, but the club has accepted over 30 new members this year. The 1983 officers have met three times, discussed club business and resolved a number of "open" issues.

The subject of a continuing and ongoing judging contest is being pursued by the appointment of Bill Alvarez to that activity by Charles Farnsworth. An annual award for the best historical article is being investigated. Incorporation is being discussed. Future meeting sites and dates have been established so that members can plan ahead to attend meets.

Your club officers are dedicated to making this club one of interest, excellence and fun. More new members are desirable. Please pass on to non-members and collector friends that SCARS might, indeed, be the organization to belong to in 1983.

See you in May in Redlands.

Floyd Paul

Vice-President, SCARS

MAY CONTEST MEET

Olde Contest Corner

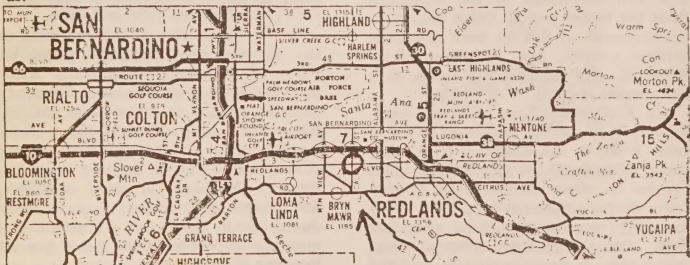
This section is open to all interested club members. Suggestions are always welcomed! Criticism is also welcome if covered with "sugar and honey." I will attempt to offer a variety of categories at each meet. I earnestly urge all to enter one or more categories.

Categories for the May meet will be the following:

- Class I Crystal receivers
- Class II Spark transmitters
- Class III Regenerative receivers
- Class IV Tuned Radio Freq. sets
- Class V Tubes prior to 1927
- Class VI Horn speakers
- Class VII Tube transmitters prior to 1930
- Class VIII Books and magazines
- Class IX Keys prior to 1930
- Class X Specialty and novelty sets

Bill Alvarez, WB6EYL

Our May Meet has been coordinated by Ben Romano of Redlands. The club thanks Ben for setting this meet up for us.



AUGUST MEET

The August 20 Swap Meet is planned for Burbank. Keep that date open.

CHRS Meets
(In Bay area)

7 May
6 August
5 November

MAY MEET

May 14, 1983

Mission School
10568 California St.
Redlands, CA (See Map)

SWAP MEET

8 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

CONTEST JUDGING

10:30 to 11:00

BUSINESS MEETING

and PROGRAM

11:00 to 12 Noon

RADIO IN THE THIRTIES

An Introduction to the Golden Age

By Ed Sheldon

By the 1930's the radio industry was in a mature stage with most all the radio manufacturing concentrated in about a dozen companies. The industry was dominated by the big three; Philco, RCA and Zenith. However, there were many interesting and very fine sets that were made by other manufacturers. The rapid technological development which took place in the 1920's had slowed and most of the great inventions and technology were in place. These were the superheterodyne circuit, the AC and screen grid tube, single dial control and the electrodynamic speaker.

The 1920's were the era of the triode tube, the three-dialer, the TRF set, the neutrodyne circuit and the horn speaker.

The 1930's were a time of consolidation and refinement of the inventions from the earlier period. Other important developments of this era were automatic volume control, low distortion diode detection, and high fidelity audio, R.F. and speaker systems.

By 1930 the AC set was well established and so was the AC screen grid type tube. It was at this time that RCA, after threat of antitrust action, started to grant licenses to other manufacturers to produce the superheterodyne circuit. Very few TRF receivers were built after that date. Other important changes were taking place in detector circuits. In 1929 about half the manufacturers used grid leak detectors and the other half were using the new and highly advertised plate, or power, detector. By 1930 most of the manufacturers had switched to the plate detector, which had a much lower hum level in an AC set than the grid leak detector circuit. The low frequency response of the sets had improved due to the better electrodynamic speakers then being used, and the set owners just wouldn't put up with the high level of AC hum that was common in sets using grid leak detectors.

The plate detector was used extensively for only about three years; 1929 to 1932, before being replaced by the oldest detector of all, the diode detector. This was the change that really set the stage for "high fidelity" or good quality radio reception. Both grid leak and plate detectors have a basic defect. The theoretical distortion factor is on the order of 25% at 100% modulation level. In actual practice, the distortion could be even higher. It also proved difficult to design transformers that could give good low frequency response from the 27 or 56 tubes that were commonly used as plate detectors.

Now with the improved superheterodyne circuit, diode detection, screen grid tubes and better electrodynamic speakers, it became possible to build good performing and good sounding radios, and the manufacturers really went to town in selling these sets to the public by the millions. To appreciate the significance of all this, listen critically to a group of radios starting with the 1930 models, going year-by-year to the 1940 models. You will notice the improvements in performance and audio quality year by year.. However, most of the improvement took place between 1930 and 1936.

In the latter part of this era some of the changes were just sales gimmicks. Some of the useful innovations were: push button tuning, automatic frequency control, built-in loop antennas, AC/DC sets, metal tubes, and loctal tubes. Resistance coupled audio stages and vacuum tube phase inverters became common. Negative feedback in audio amplifiers, and frequency modulation were introduced late in the decade. There was also severe price competition and a general lowering of quality.

I would like to list a few of my favorite sets from the Golden Age of Radio. These are the sets with which I gained a "hands on" familiarity when I worked as a radio service man while attending college from 1935 to 1940.

The preponderance of Philco sets is partly due to the fact that my boss was a Philco dealer and although he sold many other makes he had a strong preference for Philco. Most of these sets are in my current collection.

continued on pg.3

MAJESTIC MODEL 90 (8 tubes)

This set is one of the last of the all-triode neutrodynes, with four RF stages and five tuned circuits with a plate detector. It is fairly sensitive and selective, and had good sound quality for that time period. In the low-boy cabinet (Model 93) it was priced at \$146.00.

RCA MODEL 80, 82. 1930. (9 tubes)

This is a very sensitive and selective superhet with a plate detector and push-pull 45 output tubes. A great DX set.

PHILCO MODEL 70 & 70A

1931. (7 tubes)

The later versions of this set had a diode detector and AVC. Over 200,000 of the Baby Grand model were made. At \$49.95 for the table model it was a great buy and a good-performing set.

SCOTT DELUXE ALL WAVE

1932. (12 tubes)

A sensitive, selective and very powerful set. A phenomenal 0.25 microvolt sensitivity was claimed for this set. It has three I.F. stages, AVC and is very well shielded.

PHILCO 200X. 1934-35. (10 tubes)

Priced at \$200.00, this set was at the top of the Philco line, and not too many were sold. It was the first real Hi-Fi set,

with variable selectivity, two triple stagger-tuned I.F. stages, a 10 K.C. filter in the audio circuit, a low-distortion detector circuit and many other design features. A rare and very interesting radio.

PHILCO MODEL 116X. 1936. (11 tubes)

Priced at \$175.00, this was the featured model in Philco's 1936 line. It is a five band, a High Fidelity model with good sound, and a fine short wave performer.

STROMBERG CARLSON 225H

1937. (5 tube, AC/DC)

This is a three-band table set and a very nice performer. It is typical of the trend to smaller, lower priced radios of this period.

RCA 95T5. 1938. (5 tubes, AC)

This is a good performing table model with iron core I.F.'s and push buttons. It is typical of the many small sets produced by RCA during this period of intense price competition.

This is a very brief introduction to an exciting period of radio history which is focused around my personal experience as a radio service man during the period; later as an engineer, and now as a collector.

END

THE ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB OF ILLINOIS

The purpose of the club is to serve as a regional magnet for collectors of all types of communication equipment. ARCI promotes this through the *ARCI News*, a quarterly bulletin, which it mails to all members. Ads to members, of a noncommercial nature, are free and we solicit articles for the *News* from our members. In addition, ARCI holds four meetings per year which include contests, swap-sell sessions, talks by members and guests on subjects of interest to collectors, and in October, our Annual Meeting is held, concluding with the election of officers for the next year.

Membership is open to all people who have a genuine interest in the preservation of the history of all types of communication equipment. Dues are \$10.00 per year. A note to any ARCI officer will be promptly answered by an application.

Write to Joe Willis, President ARCI.
525 W. Oakdale. No. 524. Chicago, IL
60657.

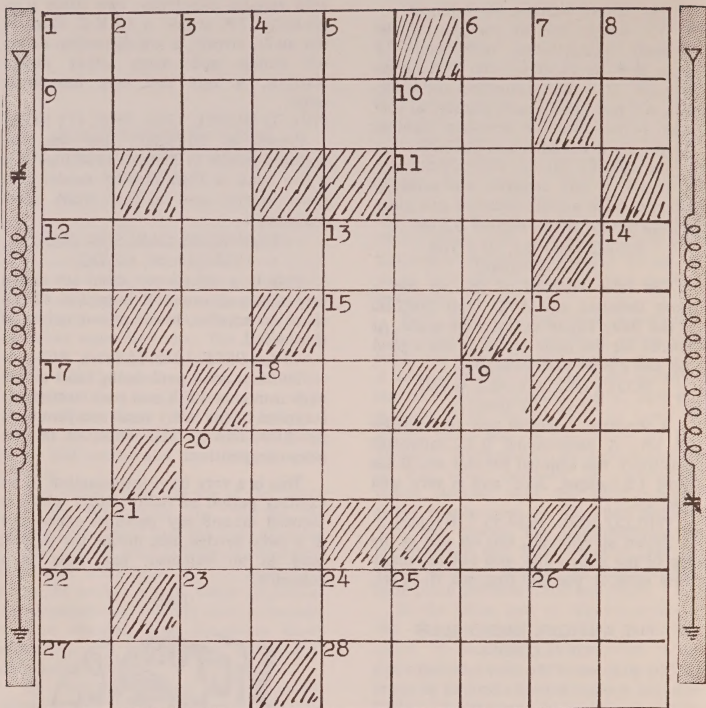


LOOK FOR THE DOG

Look for the Dog, An Illustrated Guide to Victor Talking Machines. This 326 page hardcover book describes each Victor radio and phonograph product made between 1901 and 1929, and is a must for every collector. Extensive service notes are included to aid in restoration.

Order your autographed copy from the author by sending \$19.95 plus \$1.50 postage and handling to Robert Baumbach, 21520 Velicata St. Woodland Hills, CA 91364. (Calif. residents please add sales tax.)

Editor note: Bob has been an active SCARS member for several years. His specialty is phonographs.



ACROSS

1. ----- Eastham
6. Snapshot (colloq.)
9. Uses WD11's
11. Forerunner of IEEE
12. Cone or horn
15. Abbreviation for the fellow who puts this newsletter together.
16. Ham designation for Methuselah e.g.
17. College degree
18. Not off
20. Interception device
21. Honest president
23. Type of crystal set
27. What your spouse does in the kitchen while you're hamming it up.
28. Measuring instrument

DOWN

1. Type of pup
2. SCARS general location (abbr.)
3. Madison Avenue types
4. Type of low-pass filter
5. River in Italy
6. TV personality
8. General call to all stations
10. Fibbed
13. Second part of popular radio
14. First part of popular radio
18. An extraordinary person
19. Concerning
20. Many people write this gal
22. Not audio frequency
24. Meditation syllable
25. US
26. That is

This month's cross Word puzzel By Edith Durfey, with help from George Durfey, and encouragement from Floyd Paul. Apologies to Margaret Farrar, et al.

DISTRESS CALLS

By Roy & Kathryn Tucker

N6TK & AA6TK

Less than a half hour after the *Titanic* struck an iceberg south of Newfoundland on its maiden voyage the vessel's captain ordered the wireless to send out a call of distress. The operator made numerous calls prior to the final plunge under the waters. On several of these both the calls CQD and SOS were transmitted. Why these cryptic letters? Why not just HELP? This in the early morning of April 15, 1912.

Radiotelegraphy took over many of the brevity approaches previously developed for land telegraph use, but uniformity among users was not immediately established. The British Marconi Company, founded in the 1890's with subsidiaries in many countries including the United States, established company-wide procedures for its operations. CQ, borrowed from land service, was the general call for all stations within hearing range. By adding a "D," the call became CQD to indicate a call to all stations from a station in distress. In popular thought it stood for "come quick danger" but this was pure imagination.

At the 1906 International Wireless Telegraph Convention in Berlin, efforts were made to standardize procedure such as that related to distress. This was the second such meeting of its kind; in reality the second session of a conference called in 1903 by the German Emperor to attempt international regulation of wireless communication. The Marconi Company naturally supported their CQD as the international maritime distress signal, but alternates were suggested by others. The Germans had been using SOE as the distress signal, simply on the basis of its easy sending and recognizing (3 dots, 3 dashes, 1 dot). The finally adopted code signal was SOS which presumably was even easier to recognize than SOE. The single dot at the end of the character was feared to be missed, compared with three.

Popular lore quickly associated SOS with such phrases as "save our ship" or "save our souls." Like "come quick danger," there was no basis for this. Not too commonly known, even to experts, is the fact that SOS (3 dots, 3 dashes, 3 dots) is not to be sent as separate letters S-O-S but, rather, the equivalent sound

of these letters all run together (ditditditdahdahdahditditdit). In print this is indicated by the bar over the letters. Hopefully even badly functioning or improvised equipment might be "jerry rigged" to the extent of being able to generate three short bursts of radio frequency energy followed by three longer bursts and three short bursts.

The SOS signal was supposed to go into effect July 1, 1908 but CQD (sent as separate letters) was continued by some for several years. The *Titanic* (with operators supplied by the Marconi Company) used both to ensure recognition of the ship's dire straits. The *Titanic*'s SOS was the first use of the new distress call in an actual emergency. Earlier maritime disasters, as far back as 1899, had used CQD or still other distress calls in attempting aid by way of wireless.

SOS has remained the officially recognized mobile radiotelegraphic distress call to the present day. It could be used by aircraft in danger as well as ships. To ensure recognition of the emergency call it is always supposed to be sent rather slowly. All routine traffic is to cease when it is heard. Starting in the 1930's many ships became equipped with auto-alarm receivers to be activated by distressed vessels, to attract attention to the emergency call to follow; a great advantage for ships not having a 24 hour-a-day radio watch. For maximum possibility of reception, distress calls, whenever possible, are to be sent on internationally agreed upon frequencies where listening watches will habitually be conducted, such as 500 and 2183 kHz for maritime use. Every international radio conference since 1906 (such as the most recent one, WARC, at Geneva in 1979) has adopted or readopted regulations regarding distress calls.

With increasingly greater use of radio telephony in mobile use, and a greater number of types of radio services developing, additional distress communication alerts were necessary. International agreement again provided for standardization. It was desired to create an easily pronounced word that could be spoken and recognized by all in the world regardless of language. The word MAYDAY was the choice. Despite what it might appear to be (a celebration in the month of May to English speakers), it is derived from the

continued from pg. 5
 French term "m'aider" (help us).

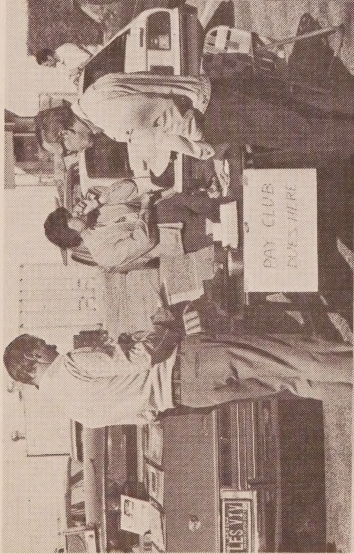
In addition to the distress signals adopted by agreement among nations, still others have been used, but with nowhere the universal recognition of SOS or MAYDAY. The American Radio Relay League has tried to popularize QRR (later changed to QRRR) as the amateur signal of distress in radiotelegraphy. The call 10-33 to police and fire personnel (even to CB'ers) means "help me quickly."

Numerous books on radio and maritime history cite interesting material on the history of the distress signals. One of the best is from the history of the organization that provided for the standardization, *From Semaphore to Satellite* (International Telecommunications Union, Geneva, Switzerland, 1965).

END

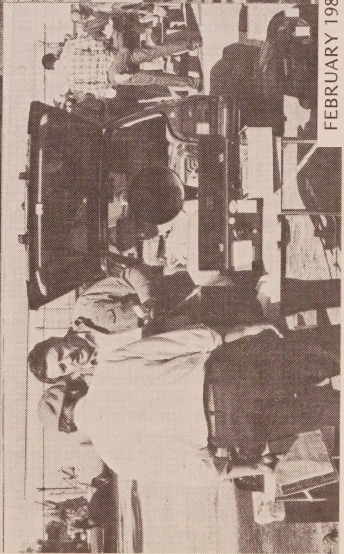
SCARS INDEX Articles, 1978-83 By F. A. Paul

VOL	NO	TOPIC/TITLE	AUTHOR
3	2	Lyonodyne Receiver	Tuggle
3	3	Magnavox Story	Clark
3	4	Connecticut DR-6	Stout
4	1	TKD K6 Tube	Condon
		Paragon RA-6	Stout
4	2	Sparton Receivers	Stout
		WE 217-A Tube	Condon
4	3-4	Grebe CR-1	Stout
		WB-800 Tube	Condon
		Crosley 51	Paul
5	1	WE 221-D Tube	Condon
		IP 501A Receiver	Herbig
5	2	Cunningham Tubes	Herbig
		Kennedy 110 Receiver	Stout
5	3	2HF & 3NF Tubes	Clark
		Arcturus Blue Tubes	Condon
		Pilot Wasp Receiver	Herbig
5	4	AK 5 & AK 20 Receivers	Stout
6	1	-----	
6	2	IP & SE Receivers	Herbig
		Transmitting Tubes	Legal
		Magnavox R3-D Horn	Paul
6	3	CG 1787 Tube	Condon
6	4	WE 216-A Tube	Condon
		Marconi Story	Clark
		So. Cal. Radio Swap Meets	Tuckers
		CP-1110 Transmitter	Link
Oct 82 NL		L.A. Radio Mfgs.	Stout
		Volume Controls	Sheldon
7	1	SE 2465A Receiver	Herbig
		Battery Tubes	Tuckers
		Edison's Boo Boos	Tuckers
8	1	Sheldon Receiver	Sheldon
		PO Oscillation Tube	Condon
		Baldwin	Rogers
		Timmons Corp.	Paul



OFFICERS OF SCARS

Left to right: Floyd Paul, Charles Farnsworth, Walter Curry and Edward Sheldon.



FEBRUARY 1983 BURBANK MEET

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY 19, 1983 SCARS MEETING AT BURBANK, CA

By Ed Sheldon

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on November 13, 1982, were read and approved.

Treasurer, Walt Curry, reported a balance of over \$1800 in the treasury. He also stated that we have 30 new members who have joined SCARS since the first of the year.

President Charles Farnsworth requested comment from members on their interest in continuing to hold contests at our meetings. The consensus of the members present was that contests should be continued, and Bill Alvarez was appointed to take charge of the function.

Floyd Paul announced that John Stokes book, *70 Years of Radio Tubes* is available at a 40% discount, which brings the cost to about \$13 including shipping. Contact Floyd if you are interested in purchasing this book.

Club badges: Roy and Kathryn Tucker reported that an order has been placed for the club member badges and that they will be available at our next meeting in May.

Bruce McCalley was introduced to the members by Floyd Paul, and was thanked for his valuable help in the publication of the *Gazette*.

The business meeting was ajourned.

A show and tell followed in which Roy and Kathryn Tucker gave an interesting and informative presentation of "Distress Calls."

SCARS LOGOS ARRIVE

The peel-on logos of SCARS have been procured by the Tuckers; they will be available at the May meeting. At that time a plan will be formulated for their application to a plastic membership badge. The logo, half symbolic — half realistic, portrays a "three dialer" battery-era receiver with a horn loudspeaker, in side view, atop it. Portrayed in a 1¼-inch circle, around the edge runs the designation, "Southern California Antique Radio Society." The entire logo is printed on gold brushed metallic-like paper and can be stuck not only on a badge but such other things as plaques, trophies, or even an item of antique radio equipment.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Your SCARS officers have for months been discussing the possibility of incorporating the club as a non-profit organization. A check with previous club officers discloses that this is not a new topic for the club. The benefits of incorporation are at least the following:

1. Limited liability of club members and officers.
2. Gifts to the club would be tax deductible.
3. Corporation taxes are avoided.

To date the discussions of this action are favorable. A vote will be taken at the next business meeting on this issue. Pros and cons by members should be voiced to the current officers. It appears that money in the treasury will support the publication of *Gazettes* for the rest of 1983 and cover the costs of incorporation.

(Since Last Roster Issue)

Borgmann, Richard	Canyon Country, CA
Buzzell, Parker	Escondido, CA
Collins, Philip	Los Angeles, CA
Crane, Norman	Tucson, AZ
Crum, Paul	Chicago, IL
Dawson, Arch	Laguna Hills, CA
Dichter, Steve	Los Angeles, CA
Douglas, Alan	Pocasset, MA
Dupree, Donald	Sepulveda, CA
Everest, F. Alton	Whittier, CA
Fathauer, George	Mesa, AZ
Egbert, G.	Pacific Palisades, CA
Gordon, Doug	Los Angeles, CA
Gray, Jack	Napa, CA
Grossman, Harry	Topanga, CA
Harris, Riley	Compton, CA
Henderson, Jim	Riverside, CA
Hiebert, Vernon	Simi Valley, CA
Hill, James	Palos Verdes, CA
Hillman, Charles	Orange, CA
Holmes, John	Manhattan Beach, CA
Jaque, Philip	Redondo Beach, CA
Jensby, Will	Sunnyvale, CA
Lloyd, Ralph	Altadena, CA
McCormick, Ed	Woodland Hills, CA
Miller, Ray	Oceanside, CA
Rauch, Lawrence	Los Angeles, CA
Scheid, Lyle	Iroques, SD
Schmid, Joseph	Reseda, CA
Shanks, David	Bloomfield, NJ
Shuck, Robert	Indianapolis, IN
Sweazy, Robert	Bird City, KS
Tona, John	Lancaster, CA
Udegrove, Paul	Hermosa Beach, CA

For Sale or Trade

ADS MUST BE SUBMITTED EACH TIME FOR EACH PUBLICATION. ADS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING AND SPACE LIMITATIONS. ADS ARE FOR MEMBERS ONLY.

FOR SALE — A set of two DeForest F5's. Radiophone, mahogany cabinet. Original condition, rust and corrosion free parts. Can be restored to mint easily. One without tubes, \$200. One with tubes, \$225. Sold as a pair, \$375 plus UPS postage and insurance. Robert H. Sweazy. Box 278. Bird City, KS 67731. Photos on request.

FOR SALE — Scott 800B with power supply, speaker and turntable. \$125 or best offer. Bill Alvarez. 19867 E. Vista Hermosa Drive. Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 595-5556.

& Want Ads

WANTED — Speaker and schematic for the Atwater Kent Model 55C. Contact Tom Mosely. 1937 W. 41st Place. Los Angeles, CA 90062. (213) 293-2789.

WANTED — CAPEHART literature, parts, record changers or complete instruments. Robert Baumbach. 21520 Velicata St. Woodland Hills, CA 91364. (213) 884-6924.

WANTED — National power supply for FB7 or SW3. Also National, Hammarlund, Millen parts. Gary Legel. 1306 Sheppard Drive. Fullerton, CA 92631.

WANTED — National 5886 AB power supply for 1-10. Also coils A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2. Bill Alvarez. 19867 E. Vista Hermosa Drive. Walnut, CA 91789. (714) 595-5556.

WANTED — A set of metal tuning dial plates for a 1-P-501 (SE-1420), see V.R. page 64. Also need a cabinet for a Grebe CR-18. David Shanks. 115 Baldwin St. Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

WANTED — Crystal sets, wireless gear, pre-1925 sets. Also unusual speakers, radio signs, 1920's radio magazines. Joe Willis. 525 Oakdale. N. 524. Chicago, IL 60657. (312) 871-3928.

FOR SALE — Tube checker. Weston Model 774-4. This tube checker is also a multi-meter. Gary Legel. 1306 Sheppard Drive. Fullerton, CA 92631.

FOR SALE — Philco Predicta 17" table TV. Fully restored. Chrome and brass cabinet. \$300. See at May meet or call (805) 251-2520. Roger Deane.

FOR SALE — All kinds of pre-1950's radio and TV tubes, all tested and guaranteed. \$1.00 to \$5.00. From '27's, 39's to 6AU6, 50C5's, etc. Roger Deane. (805) 251-2520.

FOR SALE — Radiola replacement audio interstage transformers, for Radiola III, III-A, Balanced Amp., etc. Custom made to fit inside your original transformer's shell. \$8.75 each plus shipping. R. A. Goodman. 7943 Ponce. Canoga Park, CA 91304.

WANTED — REL-278 receiver. Would appreciate hearing from anyone with information about this receiver. Will share research on early history of regen. John Crowe. W6ULZ. (213) 347-3058. 22060 Independencia St. Woodland Hills, CA 91364.

WANTED — Deco and mirrored glass radios wanted by avid collector. Finder's fee paid for positive acquisition leads, regardless of condition. Edward W. Sage. 1781 Helene Ct. Benicia, CA 94510. (707) 746-5659 anytime.

WANTED — Pre-1950 TV receivers and related materials to pre 1950 TV. I am also interested in meeting TV collectors. Don Fleming. 7676 Jackson Drive. San Diego, CA 92119. (619) 582-3600.

WANTED — Electrode antenna insulators. Composition insulators made just before or after the First World War needed for insulator collection. Roy and Kathryn Tucker. N6TK & AA6TK. 14109 White-rock Drive. La Mirada, CA 90638. (213) 943-1150.

WANTED — DeForest tubes. DV-2 (bakelite base), DV-7, DL-9, DL-14. Also need McCullough 401 and Kellogg 401
Will buy or trade. Bill Condon, 1434 Princeton, Apt. B, Santa Monica, Ca. 90404



THE VICTORY-GRANTONE PORTABLE RECEIVER

By Stewart Oliver

The Victory-Grantone Portable Receiver pictured on the cover was purchased about ten years ago at an antique show in San Mateo, California (near San Francisco). It is probably the only set I have ever found at one of these types of shows and oddly enough I attended quite by chance, on my way through Northern California during a vacation.

The set was manufactured by the Victory Radio-Electro Company which had offices in San Francisco and Chicago. This particular set has several stamped markings on the inside of the battery box which identify it as being made during May 1923 in the San Francisco facility.

An advertisement for a similar receiver with a shorter box and no variometer, listed as the Model 550, can be seen in the March 1923 issue of *Radio* magazine. The two "can" units were available separately and are listed as the type "500 Detector Unit" and the type "530 Amplifying Loudspeaker." In addition to the "portable" receiver, these two "can" units were also offered mounted on a board with the wiring underneath, much like an Atwater Kent breadboard. Also advertised is a type "575 DX Unit" which enabled the receiver to be upgraded to "an efficient regenerative circuit." The DX unit appears to be a variometer housed in the same size can as the rest of their product line, and intended to be connected externally.

It appears that by a couple of months later, when the model pictured on the cover was available, the company had decided to provide the mounting of the variometer right on the receiver itself. This enabled the company to continue advertising the set as "the most compact, neatest and totally self-contained complete radio receiver yet developed." Thus, a longer box was used, the can units spread apart, and binding posts were provided on the lid which permitted the connection of the variometer between the detector unit's output and the amplifier unit's input. As with the first Atwater Kent models 3925 and 3945, it appears the variometer was not installed by the factory as this would make the set a true regenerative and an Armstrong license would have been required. The variometer, a Remler unit, with the same type knob as the others on the set, was probably sold by the Victory's dealers to be mounted by the customer.

The speaker bell on the set pictured is not the original one but is a pretty good match.

Victory also advertised a Victory-Grantone horn speaker, model 530, which has a base stamped from the same form as the other can units. Has anyone seen one of these?

SCARS 1982 PUBLICATIONS

For the record: there were two publications in 1982. (1), a *Gazette*, Volume 7, Number 1, February 1982 and (2), a newsletter, in October 1982.

1981 had four publications, and 1983 has had two and will have two more before year end.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The editors are asking that authors submitting articles for publication include in their papers adequate and appropriate source references. Statements about and of history become much more positive and supportive when literature references are given.

REDLANDS — MISSION SCHOOL — MAY 14 — SWAP MEET

SCARS